ever, there is a Centrally sponsored scheme for assisting the cooperatives for weaker sections which the youth can also take advantage of. The Working Group set up by the Planning Commission for the formulation of 8th Five Year Plan on Agricultural Credit and Cooperation is *inter-alia* considering proposals for setting up of youth cooperatives with a view to involving this segment of population into the cooperative fold and to promote employment oriented and income generating activities on cooperative lines. However, details in this respect have yet to be finalised. So far as promotion of self-employment among the youth in rural areas is concerned, TRYSEM and the scheme to provide Self-Employment to Educated Unemployed Youth (SEEUY) are already being implemented. Besides, the youth can also take advantage of other Programmes such as those run by Khadi and Village Industries Commission.

Mandatory AIDS Test of Blood Donors

1754. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to make medical check up of blood donors mandatory in order to prevent the spread of AIDS in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) and (b) An action plan has been drawn up by Director General of Health Services to screen all blood donors in the country for HIV antibodies. The screening has already been initiated in Bombay (January, 1989), Madras (February, 1989), Delhi (March, 1989). In Calcutta the programme of screening blood donors is expected to start shortly. The screening will be extended in a phased manner to other cities where surveillance centres have been established by ICMR in collaboration with State/U.T. Governments.

Generation of Power from Deep Sea Water by cold fusion process

1755. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that scientists have carried out a successful experiment to achieve fusion under deep sea water thereby predicting a possibility of harnessing energy from deep sea water;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government would consider to harness energy from deep sea water by cold fusion process;

(d) if so, what are the details of such proposals;

(e) whether Government have taken steps to duly reward and compliment the team of concerned scientists;

(f) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(g) if reply to (e) be in negative, in what manner Government would recognise the declaration of the concerned Scientists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) and (b) It is being reported that fusion can be achieved by putting Deuterium atoms in metals like Palladium in an electrolytic cell. This Deuterium comes from heavy water. While heavy water is available in the sea, these experiments are not conducted under the deep sea. The sea has been identified as a possible source for heavy water. The experiment is actually done in electro-chemical cell with two metal electrodes and pure heavy water. Sea water cannot be used as such.

(c) and (d). Present work is mainly to understand the process. Harnessing of this form of energy is still to futuristic.

(e) to (g) Government has established methods for recognising scientific merit and good work.

Manufacture of Main Battle Tanks by Bharat Earth Movers Ltd.

1756. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH :
SHRI BAIKUNTHA NATH SAHU :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received proposal from the Bharat Earth Movers Ltd. for manufacture of Main Battle Tanks (MBT), if so, whether it is being considered for approval;

(b) whether the proposal had earlier been submitted by the Bharat Heavy Electrical Ltd. also, if so, what are the constraints for not accepting their proposal; and

(c) whether Government have explored the export potential of MBT, if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. The decision regarding manufacture of Main Battle Tank will be taken keeping in view the overall techno-economic aspects of the offers received.

(c) No, Sir, as the tank is under advanced stages of development.

Curtailing the Research Work of Regional Research Laboratory, Bhuvaneswar

1757. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Scientists of the Regional Research Laboratory, Bhuvaneswar have alleged that the research work in the forest, marine and agricultural resources in the laboratory has been curtailed by the management;

(b) if so, what are the main allegations made and to what extent they have been found true; and

(c) what steps are being taken to continue the research work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) and (b) A news item had appeared in some newspaper alleging that the research work in forest, marine and agricultural resources in the Regional Research Laboratory, Bhubaneswar had been curtailed and throttled by the management though work had expanded a great deal in the sphere of minerals. The allegations are baseless. Research programmes of laboratories are formulated based on the recommendations of Research Council, Research Council of the Regional Research Laboratory, Bhubaneswar has identified areas of excellence for the laboratory as under :

(i) Mineral beneficiation and agglomeration.

(ii) Extraction of non-ferrous metals.

(iii) Hydraulic transportation of minerals.

(iv) Plasma metallurgy.

The projects other than these are dovetailed to CSIR thrust area programmes or thrust area programme of other nodal laboratories.

(c) Research work in this area is continuing.

Application from Madhya Pradesh for setting up of Electronic Units

1758. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether applications from the Madhya Pradesh Government and the entrepreneurs from that state have been received for establishing manufacturing units